

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 5780

BANGKOK PLEASE PASS VICE-PRESIDENT'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ID
SUBJECT: UPDATED GOVERNMENT FIGURES ON MPR PERIOD DETAINEES

REF: (A) JAKARTA 5295, (B) JAKARTA 4851

SUMMARY. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT A TOTAL OF 212 PERSONS--129 STUDENTS AND 83 OTHERS--ARE NOW IN DETENTION FOR ALLEGED DISSIDENT/TERRORIST ACTS DURING THE PAST FOUR MONTHS. ACCORDING TO KOPKAMTIB COMMANDER ADMIRAL SUDOMO, "NO MORE THAN 50 WILL BE TRIED...AND ALL CASES WILL BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR." SINCE THE SUBMISSION OF REFERENCE A, 34 STUDENTS AND SEVERAL PROMINENT MUSLIM DETAINEES HAVE BEEN RELEASED. THE POET AND SOCIAL CRITIC RENDRA, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN DETAINED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA HAS ANNOUNCED UPDATED FIGURES ON THE NUMBERS OF PERSONS IN DETENTION FOR
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ALLEGED DISSIDENT AND/OR TERRORIST ACTS DURING THE MPR PERIOD. ACCORDING TO KOPKAMTIB COMMANDER ADMIRAL SUDOMO, THERE ARE 212 PERSONS CURRENTLY UNDER DETENTION, 129 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND 83 OTHERS. THE BULK OF THOSE HELD ARE ON JAVA. SUDOMO RECONFIRMED THAT 19 CASES HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORWARDED TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TO BE PREPARED FOR TRIAL AND ADDED,

"NO MORE THAN 50 OF THE TOTAL HELD WILL BE TRIED."
SUDOMO ALSO SAID THAT ALL CASES WOULD BE COMPLETED THIS
YEAR.

2. SINCE THE SUBMISSION OF REFERENCE A, 27 STUDENTS
HELD IN WEST JAVA AND SEVEN HELD IN JAKARTA HAVE BEEN
RELEASED. IN ADDITION, SEVERAL PROMINENT MUSLIM
DETAINEES--INCLUDING FORMER MASJUMI AND SUMATRA
SEPARATIST LEADER SJAFRUDDIN AND THE SON-IN-LAW OF
FORMER PRIME MINISTER NATSIR--HAVE BEEN RELEASED. THE
ECCENTRIC CIVIC ACTIVIST J. C. PRINCEN WAS ALSO FREED.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE JAKARTA SECURITY COMMAND
(LAKSUS) ON MAY 1 PICKED UP THE PROMINENT POET AND
SOCIAL CRITIC RENDRA FOR ALLEGEDLY "INCITING" DISORDER
DURING A RECENT READING OF SOME OF HIS POEMS AT A
JAKARTA THEATER (THE READING, INCIDENTALLY, WAS
DISRUPTED WHEN UNKNOWN PARTIES THREW SEVERAL BOTTLES
FILLED WITH AMMONIA INTO THE AUDIENCE). INCLUDED AMONG
THE LINES OF RENDRA'S POEMS WERE QUOTATIONS FROM THE
BANNED "WHITE BOOK" PUBLISHED BY STUDENT DISSIDENTS AT
THE BANDUNG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (ITB) LAST YEAR. A
LAKSUS SPOKESMAN SAID HE HAD NO IDEA HOW LONG RENDRA
MIGHT BE HELD.

4. COMMENT. THE NEW GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ON
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DETAINEES AND THE RELEASE OF STUDENTS AND MUSLIMS MAY
HAVE BEEN PROMPTED IN PART BY THE IMPENDING VISIT OF
VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE. CONSIDERING THE NEW RELEASES,
THE ESTIMATES ON STUDENT DETAINEES CONTAINED IN
REFERENCE A APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ACCURATE. OUR NON-
STUDENT DETAINEE ESTIMATE, HOWEVER, APPEARS LOW BY SOME
40 DETAINEES, PEOPLE WE SUSPECT MAY HAVE BEEN PICKED UP
IN CITIES OUTSIDE JAKARTA IN CONNECTION WITH THE
ALLEGED TERRORIST ACTS OF THE ISLAMIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION
GPI.
MASTERS

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NNN

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